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Message Text

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73
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01

EA-07 OIC-02 /062 W
---------- 064622
R 191658Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3100
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0128
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21024

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COOPERATION AMONG EC COUNTRIES

REF: A-2781

1. MEMBER OF INTERIOR MINISTER PONIATOWSKI'S STAFF, WHO ATTENDED JUNE 18 MEETING (REFAIR), EXPRESSED GUARDED SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING AND OUTLINED THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAM OF THE GROUP. HE EXPECTED THE NEXT MEETING TO TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF OCTOBER, TO BE FOLLOWED SHORTLY THEREAFTER WITH ANOTHER MEETING, PROBABLY IN NOVEMBER. THE NEXT MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE NEXT YEAR. HE FELT THAT MOST OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES SHOWED RENEWED INTEREST LAST MONTH, COMPARED TO THE 1974-1975 LULL, AND THAT THE SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS IS INDICATIVE OF THIS INTEREST.

2. OUR SOURCE REVIEWED THE SHORT HISTORY OF THE POMPIDOU INITIATIVE, BEGINNING WITH AN INITIAL 1972-1974 PERIOD OF HIGH INTEREST RESULTING FROM THE URGENCY OF THE DRUG PROBLEM AT THE TIME AND THE NEWNESS OF POMPIDOU'S CALL TO OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THE NEXT TWO YEARS WERE A PER-
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IOD OF LESS ACTIVITY BECAUSE OF POMPIDOU'S DEATH, THE

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ELECTIONS IN FRANCE AND THE TIME NEEDED FOR THE GOF'S MACHINERY TO GEAR UP. BUT IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS,OUR SOURCE CONTINUED, SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE WITNESSED A RECURRENCE OF A SERIOUS DRUG PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY DUE TO THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN TRAFFIC TO THE NETHERLANDS. AS A CONSEQUENCE, MEETINGS AMONG THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED HAVE BECOME MORE FREQUENT: THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 1975 AND THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY AND JUNE OF THIS YEAR. OUR SOURCE EXPECTS SIMILAR MEETINGS TO CONTINUE AT A RATE OF THREE OR FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

3. IN THE LAST MEETING IN JUNE, THE REPRESENTATIVES DEVOTED ONE HOUR TO THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN SOURCE PROBLEM. OTHER MAIN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WERE: HARMONIZATION OF LEGISLATION IN THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, THE PROBLEM OF A EUROPEAN NATIONAL ARRESTED IN ANOTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY, THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG POLICE FORCES, AND TREATMENT OF ADDICTS AFTER ARREST. THE APPROACH TO ALL THESE SUBJECTS WAS DESCRIBED AS TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY: TECHNICAL, BECAUSE THE ONLY EFFECTIVE WAY TO FACE UP TO DAILY DRUG PROBLEMS IS TO RESOLVE THEM IN A CONCRETE WAY, AND ADVISORY BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE'S CONCLUSIONS ARE ONLY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTRIES INVOLVED IN EACH COUNTRY. OUR SOURCE EXPECTED THE OCTOBER MEETING TO TREAT MAINLY THESE SAME ISSUES AND PROMISED TO PROVIDE US WITH THE AGENDA AND FRENCH POSITION PAPERS BEFORE THE MEETING.

4. THE JUNE MEETING ALSO CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF INCORPORATING ITS WORK INTO EITHER THE UN OR THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONTEXT, BUT IT CONCLUDED THAT ITS WORK WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF KEPT IN THE MORE LIMITED EC FRAMEWORK, WITH THE ADDED, USUAL PARTICIPATION OF SWEDEN AND (AS OBSERVERS) INTERPOL AND THE EC COMMISSION. WE WERE TOLD THAT THIS MEMBERSHIP IS NOT CONSIDERED EXCLUSIVE. OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH ARE CONCERNED WITH A DRUG PROBLEM COULD CONCEIVABLY JOIN, BUT WHAT THE COMMITTEE HOPED TO AVOID WAS BEING DROWNED IN AN ORGANIZATION WITH A FAR LARGER MEMBERSHIP.
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